

# Tropical Cyclone 02A

Tropical Cyclone (TC) 02A (02A) was the only 1999 cyclone warned on by JTWC in the Arabian Sea. This cyclone developed in the Laccadive Sea in mid-May and initially moved northwest before turning toward the northeast. TC 02A reached a maximum intensity of 110 kt while on a northeast heading, just before making landfall approximately 97 nm southeast of Karachi at 200600Z May.

Tropical Cyclone 02A developed in the southwest monsoonal flow during mid-May. The area of convection was discussed on the ABIO for 2 weeks before the cyclone developed. During that time, strong convection would develop just before sunrise, at the diurnal convective maximum, and subsequently dissipate around sunset. A TCFA was issued on the system on 16 May at 0100Z.

The first warning was issued at 160900Z May with northwestward movement. TC 02A subsequently reached typhoon intensity on 170600Z May, after which a mid-latitude trough passing through the Middle East significantly weakened the subtropical ridge, allowing the system to recurve into Pakistan. By 190000Z May, the cyclone reached its maximum intensity of 110 kt, which it maintained through 200600Z May. TC 02A made landfall near Karachi, Pakistan as a 110 kt tropical cyclone. JTWC issued the 21st and final warning on 210900Z May as the system moved into the Indus River valley.

TC 02A was one of the most intense cyclones on record to develop in the Arabian Sea. Reports by Agence France-Presse indicated that 700 people were reported missing and presumed dead, including 11 paramilitary soldiers who were lost during a rescue attempt at sea. Total damage was estimated at \$6 million.

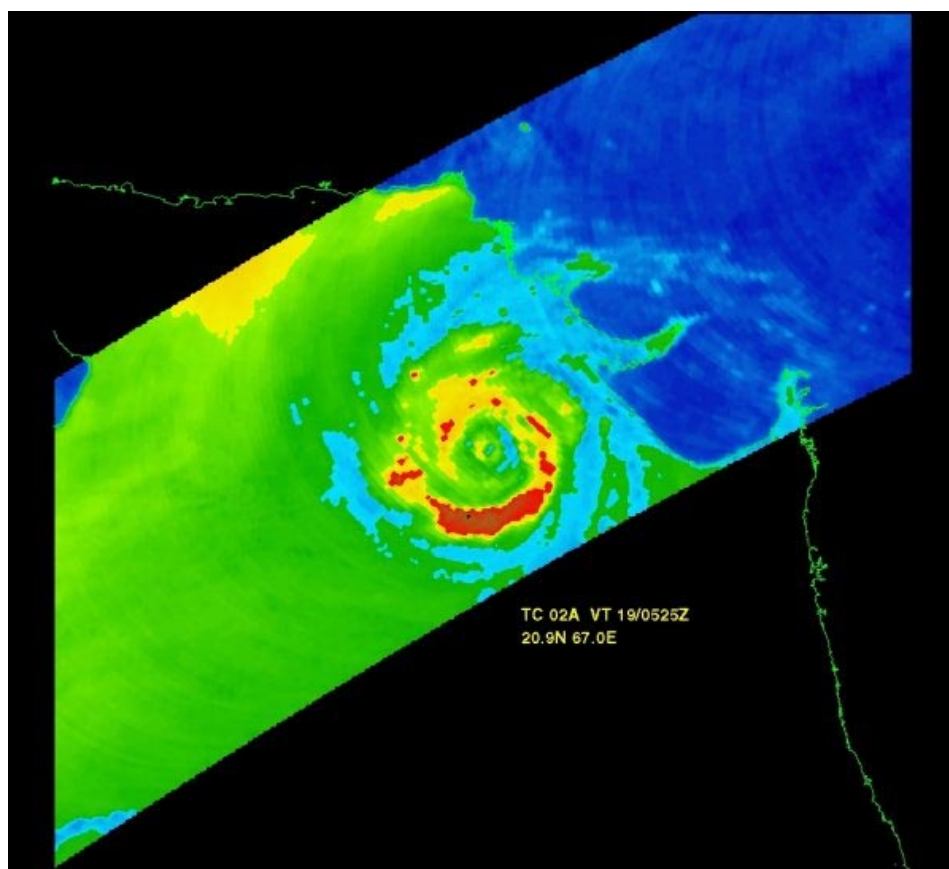


Figure 1-02A-1. 190525Z May SSM/I pass over TC 02A as it reached maximum intensity (110 kt) 235 nm south of Karachi. Of note in this image is the concentric eyewall. Continuing development served to weaken the inner eyewall, which was replaced by the outer, stronger feature.

